

# Middle School Newsblatt

*Innovative education of the whole child through German immersion.*



November 13, 2020

Thanks for your patience as we remain nimble in our schedule. COVID numbers have once again landed us in Distance Learning. We will remain there until January 22nd. We are all aware of the challenges ahead of us. Let me provide what comfort I can and say that it is clear that we have established a flow and a routine in our Safe Learning model. I have made my way around to several MS classes to observe instruction. I am amazed to see what our teachers can accomplish without even being in the same space as our students. It is not ideal. It is not best practice. But it is working. Our students are connecting with our teachers and other students in new ways and the learning is happening. I am proud of the work being done by our teachers, educational assistants, and students. We continue to monitor and adjust and TCGIMS remains steadfast in its charge to provide equitable and safe learning for all. *Gemeinsam sind wir stark.*

*~Elizabeth Zehnpfennig, Middle School Dean*





## Middle School Schedule

K-8	K-4	5-8
Nov. 16-20	Distance Learning	Distance Learning
Nov. 23-27	NO SCHOOL Conferences PD Thanksgiving	NO SCHOOL Conferences PD Thanksgiving
Nov. 30 - Dec. 18	Distance Learning	Distance Learning
Dec. 21 - Jan. 1	NO SCHOOL Winter Break	NO SCHOOL Winter Break
Jan. 4 - Jan. 22	Distance Learning	Distance Learning

\*\*The Second Week of our intervention and Support Week will continue Nov. 16-20th.

# Specialists Change Approaching

Starting November 30th, middle school students will have their next specialist rotation. In the next rotation (November 30th until January 18th), 5th and 6th grade classes will have "A" cohorts in Drama, "B" cohorts in Art, and "C" cohorts in Sport.

7th and 8th graders will move to their last Semester 1 specialist rotation, which can be found [here](#).

## 8th Grade Parents

### Capstone Update for 8th Graders/Families

There is one more step we have before we can introduce our students to their German partners and that is a digital usage form that satisfies our German partner-schools' policies. As soon as we have the copy in English for our families to sign, we will send it to you. And THEN we can finally connect our students! It's par for the course: so much to learn with every new process this year! Thank you for your patience with the process. See Katharina Schirg with questions: [kschirg@tcgis.org](mailto:kschirg@tcgis.org)

### After TCGIS? High School Survey--Take Two

Help us plan a family information night for After TCGIS. I mentioned last night at the DSD I family information night the survey that I had included a few weeks ago. Here it is again. We are trying to help Central plan and although we know High School is not the first thing on everyone's mind these days, it is also not that far away.

[Survey](#)

## Distance Learning Support

I was going to find a great article about tips for Distance Learning. I know we are going into a long stretch and I wanted to provide some professional reading or educator written advice to inform your next few weeks. I looked through a few articles and found great ideas like: have students get dressed for the day, make sure kids eat healthy snacks, and create a space for learning. Then I remembered that my daughter hasn't changed her shirt in two days, eats ice cream sometimes for lunch and likes to move around the house for a "change of scenery" (her words, not mine!). I realized that despite my 20 years in education and my parental understanding of the importance of all of those things, I also

understand which battles to pick and where to allow for autonomy. I can't care if she's wearing a dirty shirt if she doesn't. Ice cream is delicious and food is love in my big Italian family. And for the girl who hasn't really left our house in 8 months, a change of scenery is a great idea, kiddo! My point is, as parents, you know your kid. You know what's important and what can be let go of. We are asking our kids to do something we never had to do as kids. We can only imagine what it feels like for them. Give yourself grace to give them grace. In the end, I hope my daughter only remembers this as the time that Mama worked at home a bunch and she got to eat ice cream for lunch!

And for the times that ice cream can not fix, our Student Support team has come up with a great virtual tool. Check out this Virtual Calming Room: [TCGIS Virtual Zeit für Dich / Time for You Space](#)

Yours in the work,

Elizabeth

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